

REMARKS

Claims 3-16 and 19-37 are now pending in the application. Claim 19 stands rejected. Claims 3-16 and 20-25 are objected to. Claims 26-37 are allowed. Claims 1, 2, 17 and 18 are cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 17 is objected to for certain informalities. Claim 17 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the present objection moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Farina (U.S. Pat. No. 5,515,199). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-2 and 17-18 have been cancelled rendering the present §102 rejection moot.

Claim 19 has been amended, as set forth above, to depend from Claim 20. Claim 20 is presently objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 20 has been amended, as set forth above, to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 20 is now in allowable condition.

Amended Claim 19 depends from amended Claim 20. When the recitations of amended Claim 19 are considered in combination with the recitations of amended Claim 20, Applicant respectfully submit that amended Claim 19 is likewise in allowable condition.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections of Claims 1-2 and 17-19 be withdrawn.

B. Claims 1-2 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gopalakrishnan (U.S. Pat. No. 5,699,179). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-2 and 17-18 have been cancelled rendering the present §102 rejection moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections of Claims 1-2 and 17-19 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Gopalakrishnan (U.S. Pat. No. 5,699,179) in view of Katijima (U.S. Pat. No. 5,515,196). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 has been amended, as set forth above, to depend from Claim 20. Claim 20 is presently objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 20 has been amended, as set forth above, to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 20 is now in allowable condition.

Amended Claim 19 depends from amended Claim 20. When the recitations of amended Claim 19 are considered in combination with the recitations of amended Claim 20, Applicant respectfully submit that amended Claim 19 is likewise in allowable condition.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejection of Claim 19 be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 3-16 and 20-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 3 and 20 to include the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 3 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 4-16 and 21-25 respectively depend from amended Claims 3 and 20. Accordingly, when the recitations of Claims 4-16 and 21-25 are respectively considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 3 and 20, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4-16 and 21-25 are likewise now in allowable condition.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of Claims 26-37.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7525.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: DEC 6, 2006

By: 

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